



## **Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**26-27 April 2016**

SC-Social& Cultural/Rep /2016/01  
27 April 2016

1. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 26-27 April 2016 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. Delegations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey participated in the meeting. (Annex I)

2. The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda as prepared by the APA Secretariat (Annex II). Honorable Mr. Sayed Mohammad Hassan Abutorabi Fard, the first vice Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Senator Chhit Kim Yeat from National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Vice-Chairman, and Honorable Senator Muhammad Ali Saif from Senate of Pakistan was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

3. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

1. Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia;

2. Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology;
3. Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;
4. Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia;
5. Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption;
6. Resolution on Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;
7. Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions;
8. Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia;
9. Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia.

4. In the opening session, the Chairman welcomed all participating delegations and expressed his view on issues before the meeting and deplored the recent violent developments in certain Asian countries such as Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan and Iraq. He described dialogue as an effective instrument for resolving disputes and encouraged all sorts of dialogue and interaction among Asian People, parliaments and governments. He also underscored the rights and role of people in determining their own destiny and domestic political rule. He further emphasized that all Asian states and parliaments should collaborate in order to prevent war and violence and promote peace and security.

5. His Excellency Dr. Masoud Islami, the APA Acting Secretary-General welcomed the participating delegations. In his brief remarks, Dr. Islami highlighted the great potentials and unique capacities of the APA which enables the APA to assume a more vivid stance for influencing the course of events in the region in line with its goals and aspirations.

6. His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mahmoudi, Deputy Secretary General of APA presented the Report of APA Secretary General. He pointed out that whereas some of the documents before the meeting have already been adopted by the APA 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Phnom Penh, the subject matters of those documents are so important that require continuous updating and renewed consideration in order to encompass new ideas and effective means and ways for their implementation. He then addressed certain operative parts of the resolutions and underlined the necessity of implementation of the resolutions through creating effective mechanism and cooperation by Member Parliaments.

7. The participant delegates then engaged in general debate on ways and means required for promoting and implementing APA resolutions. Distinguished delegates from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Turkey, Thailand and Iran expressed their viewpoints on subject matters of the resolutions. The draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia attracted a prolonged discussion over the fact that some of the articles of the resolution refer to certain international conventions which are not consistent with internal legal regulations of some APA members. The wording of the resolution was accordingly amended so to satisfy this concern.

8. Other resolutions were also considered one by one for the inclusion of new ideas and amendments. The Delegation of the Islamic Parliament of Iran suggested that the establishment of an independent institution named Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) to fight against corruption as provided for in the previous APA resolution has proved to have been too ambitious to come close to realization. Therefore, it is advisable to replace it with a working group within the existing framework of the APA in order to come up with manageable methods for implementing the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption. Other participating delegates welcomed the proposal and decided to set up a working group to focus on the APA Plan of Action and come up with effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption. This working group shall replace the Asian

Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) which was referred to in previous resolutions as the APA institutional framework in fighting corruption.

9. The rest of the documents before the meeting were considered and adopted with minor amendments and alterations. The draft resolutions approved by the meeting will be reported to the APA Executive Council for consideration and recommendation to the APA 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary (Annex III).

10. The Standing Committee expressed its special appreciation to the Islamic Parliament of Iran for excellent organization of the meeting and the generous hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for the smooth running of the meeting. Appreciations were also made to the staff of the local secretariat for its effective support for the meeting.

# Annex I

## List of Participants

COUNTRY	Title	Name	Surname
Bangladesh	Mrs.	Hosne Ara	BEGUM
	Mrs.	Momtaj	BEGUM
	Mr.	Khaza Md.	RAHMATULLAH
Cambodia	Mr.	Kim Yeat	CHHIT
	Mr.	Dara	SRUN
	Mr.	Thul	HEANG
	Mr.	Raksmey	NGUON
	Mr.	Bunly	HOK
	Mr.	Sokhom	SAN
Indonesia	Mr.	Juliari	P. BATUBARA
	Mr.	Ferry	KASE
	Ms.	Hilda	KURNIA NINGSIH
	Mr.	Calderon	DALIMUNTHE
Iran	Mr.	S. Mohammad Hassan	ABOUTORABI FARD
	Dr.	Hosseini	NEJABAT
	Dr.	Ismael	JALILI
	Dr.	Mehrdad	BAZR PASH
	Dr.	Mohammad Javad	NAZARI MEHR
	Dr.	Evaz	HEIDAR POUR
Kuwait	Dr.	Khalil	ABDULLAH
	Mr.	Bader	ALJUMA
Lebanon	Mr.	Hassan	FADLALLAH
	Mr.	Kassem	HACHEM
Pakistan	Mr.	Mumammad Ali	SAIF
	Mr.	Ali	SHAIR
Palestine	Mr.	Zohair	SANDOQA
Sri Lanka	Mr.	Gamini	LOKUGE
	Mr.	J.c.	ALAWATHUWALA
Thailand	Mrs.	Suwannee	SIRIVEJCHAPUN
	Ms.	Jintanant Ch.	SUBHAMITR
	Ms.	Neeranan	SUNGTO
	Mr.	Russdy	KHANTANIT
Turkey	Mr.	Burhan	KAYATURK
	Mr.	Bariş	KARADENİZ
	Mr.	Burhanettin	VYSAL
	Ms.	Elif esra	ONAL
APA Secretariat	Dr.	Masoud	ISLAMI
	Dr.	Seyed Ali	MAHMOUDI
	Dr.	Ali	KHORRAM
	Mr.	Bijan	MOSHIRVAZIRI
	Mr.	Farhad	KARIMIAN
	Mr.	Seyed Saber	ABDOLLAHI
	Mr.	Saeed	SOHRABINIA

## Annex II

### Asian Parliamentary Assembly



### **Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

26-27 April 2016  
Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

#### **Agenda**

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of APA Secretary General presented by H.E. Dr. Seyed Ali Mahmoudi  
Deputy Secretary-General
- 5- General debate and Consideration and recommendations of following Documents:
  - Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
  - Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
  - Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
  - Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
  - Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
  - Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians
  - Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions
  - Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
  - Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
- 6- Any other matters.



## **Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia**

Resolution 201601

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 11-12 August 2014;

*Recognizing* the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

*Emphasizing* that cultural diversity is depended to protection of cultural heritage, and the existence of common grounds among Asian ancient civilizations provide platforms for co-existence and co-operation among nations in the region;

*Recognizing* that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations;

*Recognizing* the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond; Promotion of greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

*Reiterating* that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

*Noting* the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

*Considering* the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary;

*Remaining Concerned* about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation;

*Expressing* great concerns regarding the damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and, crimes, and organized crimes, especially damages to Muslim and Christian historical sites and holy shrines and mosques by indiscriminate aerial bombing and shelling in Syria by ISIS and other terrorist groups condemning the grave violations of Israel against the sanctity of the AL Aqsa Mosque, particularly the intrusions of the Israeli settlers and far right extremists under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces into the AL-Haram AL-Sharif rightly leading to reaction and resistance on the part of Palestinians and resulting in increased tension;

*Express* great concern with regard to the Israeli plans to spatially and temporally divide AL-Haram AL- Sharif, threatening the historical status quo at this Holy place;

*Expressing* grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, any cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia especially to Muslim, Christian and Buddhist historical sites by any person, group, or organization;

**Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;

**Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;

**Reject** all manifestations of exclusion and arrogance that are based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance;

**Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of indigenous and ethnic communities so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

**Urge** relevant government agencies to increase facilitation, consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

**Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to Moslem and Christian holy places and historical sites, by ISIS terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria, as well as destruction of cultural and educational premises brought about by Israeli invasion to Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Jerusalem;

**Urge** Member Parliaments to ratify international conventions such as the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and also the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

**Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider drafting common legislations on the basis of principles endorsed by APA, as annexed to APA/Res/2013/05, with a view to develop a model legislation to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;



**Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;

**Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc, who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;

**Condemn** all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;

**Condemn** Israeli attempts to alter the religious and cultural heritage in the Palestinian occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem, including the provocative practices violating the sanctity and historical status quo of Haram AL- Sharif and Aqsa Mosque; the dangerous excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings; imposing changes in the educational curricula; changing the original names of places into Jewish names by referring to so-called "list of Jewish heritage" and disrespecting Islamic and Christian holy and historical sites;

**Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations(UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;

**Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





## Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

Resolution 201602

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* para.5 of article 3 of the Charter of the APA;

*Recalling* APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

*Underlining* that Asian integration can be achieved through dialogue, contemplation, and interaction in order to promote peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

*Concerned* with negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and poor in Asia, and the further marginalization of developing countries in the world;

*Recognizing* the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth;

*Emphasizing* the principle of free flow of information, easy communication, and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

*Underlining* the fundamental role of information technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national; regional, and global development;

*Stressing* the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

*Underlining* that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

*Emphasizing* that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration.

**Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other sorts of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on

the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model Asian parliament;

**Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;

**Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Parliaments;

**Underline** the necessity to work out the legal status of the materials and documents which will be circulated in Virtual Parliaments;

**Request** the secretariat to conduct a pilot project of VAP and share the result with the APA member parliaments;

**Request** the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach on how Asian Parliaments should coordinate to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



## **Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia**

Resolution 201603

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

*Recalling* the advice in the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

*Stressing* the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

*Reaffirming* the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

*Welcoming* the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

*Welcoming* the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, and reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein;

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

*Recalling* the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

*Recalling* the importance of placing equity and human centred policies in the core of health agenda and noting the central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship;

*Recognizing* that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

*Stressing* the need to ensure that health is central to the post-2015 UN development agenda and that consideration is given to including universal health coverage in the discussion on the post- 2015 development agenda in the context of global health challenges;

*Emphasizing* the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from the drug abuse;

*Welcoming* the report of High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as health-related Millennium Development Goals' (MDG) deadline draws near;

*Expressing* concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and disadvantaged groups, as well as the remote geographical areas;

*Expressing* concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing depravation from a fundamental human rights health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services.

**Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02, dated 10 August, 2014;

**Underline** the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

**Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;

**Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;

**Invites** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices, and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;

**Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;

**Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media in order to identify the main social determinants of health;

**Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more updated tactical policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the MDGs achievements with regard to health policies;

**Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs in order to create better generation;

**Determine** to take active part on the discussion of post-2015 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;

**Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age;

**Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.





## **Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia**

Resolution 201604

Page 1 of 3

*We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Acknowledging* that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments;

*Noting* that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 97 on Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers;

*Emphasizing* the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

*Acknowledging* the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - 2000, in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

*Welcoming* the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition on the existence of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

*Underlining* the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

*Deeply concerned* with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuse, harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, ignored labour and overwork;

*Underlining* the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low paying, non-payment, excessive working hours, physical limitations, and sexual harassment and abuse which can be the target of human trafficking and prostitution;

*Recognizing* that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of sending and receiving countries;

*Emphasizing* that adaptation of labour immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to more effective exercise of the rights of labour immigrants;

*Acknowledging* the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their share to the development and prosperity of the region;

*Bearing in mind* the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia insolving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

*Recognizing* the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach for respecting fundamental human rights, and protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

*Confirming* that providing enough measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

*Concerned* with the mass exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

**Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;

**Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers, especially women and children;

**Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfil their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;

**Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;

**Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;

**Urge** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to conduct bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna



Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;

**Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

**Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;

**Encourage** all relevant governmental and non- governmental organizations especially EU countries to provide support to refugees and migrants suffering from uncertain situations behind the European borders.

**Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption

Resolution 201605

Page 1 of 2

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

*Taking note* of the importance of the UN Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003 and other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

*Recognizing* that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

*Reaffirming* the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

*Recognizing* the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as the four key principles of anti-corruption strategy;

*Acknowledging* that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

*Expressing* concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption;

**Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;

**Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

**Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;

**Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliaentarians in fighting corruption.

**Decide** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;

**Urges** States parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority for international cooperation in accordance with the Convention and, where appropriate; focal points for asset recovery;

**Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;

**Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





## Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

Resolution 201606

Page 1 of 2

*We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

*Mindful* of the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women's rights, injustice still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

*Aware* of the importance of promoting the enhanced participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue;

*Reaffirming* that to include women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the economic development;

*Recognizing* that the main obstacles women face in entering Parliaments in Asia include political, socio-economic, cultural, and extremism;

*Mindful* of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political life, and prevention of sexual violence against women and girls, including in situation of armed conflicts;

*Stressing* our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women's empowerment and women's participation in APA meetings;

*Underlining* the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia;

**Welcome** the Report of APA Executive Council Meeting held in Jakarta 12-13 October 2010 contained in document EC.1/Rep/2010/01 which stated the proposal of the Indonesian delegation to establish the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

**Support** the decision to establish the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians to meet annually at the time of APA Plenary Session in order to enhance the participation and representation of women within APA to concentrate on matters of specific concern to women;

**Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in all peace building processes.

**Encourage** Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;

**Urge** active and effective participation of women parliamentarians in political, economic, social, cultural, and educational affairs;

**Urge** the including at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;

**Affirm** the need of APA Member Parliaments to provide inputs on ways to promote the implementation of the enhanced and effective participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural affairs;

**Urge** APA Member Parliaments to recognize and prioritize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

**Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;

**Decide** to supersede the establishment of the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, to coordinating meeting of APA Women Parliaments;

**Decide** to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia in order to enable them to share their interests with their counterparts and different organizations;

**Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate such a network between women parliamentarians of Asia through the establishment of data base covering update information on APA Women Parliamentarians;

**Express** concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn areas such as Afghanistan Azerbaijan, Kashmir, Iraq and Syria, and for suppression and injustice faced by Palestinian women under the Israeli occupation in Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem, and also Syrian women in the Israeli occupied Syrian Golan as well as violence against women, such as killing, rape, and captivity;

**Request** the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to hold the third Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians in 2016 seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting.





## Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter- Faith Dialogue and Harmony Among World Religions

Resolution 201607

Page 1 of 2

*We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Mindful of* the fact that, Inter-Faith Harmony between the different religions of the world in general and Asia in particular is of utmost importance for the survival of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, security and tolerance;

*Recalling* with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 July 2005, and the sixth global Forum of the United Nations alliance of Civilizations, held in Bali, Indonesia. On 29 and 30 August 2014;

*Recognizing* the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among nations of the world;

*Expressing* the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter- Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

*Admitting* that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

**Urge** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

**Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;

**Denounce** stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;

**Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for contradictory religious beliefs;

**Declare** that terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity;

**Consider** Islamophobia, Christianophobia, Anti-Semitism and any other form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue which has no place in the community of civilized nations;

**Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;

**Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by leaders of extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;

**Call Upon** the international community to be cognizant of those grave humanitarian crises in Asia that involve violations of religious communities' right;

**Urge** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;

**Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments commensurate taken to implement this resolution and to report the efforts of Member Parliaments for their contribution in this regard.





## Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

Resolution 201608

Page 1 of 2

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

*Expressing* support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

*Expressing* deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

*Affirming* the important role of parliaments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

*Considering* the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

*Recognizing* the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

*Recognizing* also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

**Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative powers to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;

**Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

**Request** all APA Member Parliaments to consider and contribute to drafting of a common legislation on protecting and safeguarding cultural objects against unlawful excavations, theft, smuggling, illicit import and export of cultural heritages, together with protection of immovable cultural architectonics, to be enacted on the basis of the principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

**Request** the Secretary-general to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural items in Asia by APA Member Parliaments and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



## **Annex**

### **Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural Items**

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them;
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments.
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural properties constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural properties.
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery.
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects.
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items, expanding museums, supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries.
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural items with no permit, and restitution thereof to the country of origin.
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on restitution of cultural properties as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural items.
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural properties and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.





## **Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia**

Resolution 201609

Page 1 of 3

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

*Mindful of* the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

*Stressing* the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan;

*Emphasizing* that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace and security, and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

*Recognizing* that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

*Expressing* the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drugs policy a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

*Recognizing* the interconnected challenges facing the region, including continued the illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs that pose a serious threat to the stability of Afghanistan, its neighbours and other countries;

*Expressing* the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

*Stressing* the need to enhance joint operations with the relevant Afghan law-enforcement agencies focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the drugs trade, and to combine them with increased efforts aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

*Recognizing* the need for more cooperation with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the region and beyond;

*Call upon* Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their original countries for fair trial on the bases of their laws and regulations;

*Supporting* regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement and combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing drug related financial activities;

*Emphasizing* the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

*Stressing* the need to take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;

*Expressing* the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

*Attaching great importance* to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

**Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking;

**Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;

**Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;

**Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;

**Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;

**Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN)

to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

**Believe** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;

**Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;

**Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information exchange and dissemination;

**Request** the Secretary General to prepare a report on the contribution of Asian Parliaments to combating illicit drug trafficking including a review of relevant legislation in Member Parliaments in this regard.

